

What are the Information Needs of Communities & Citizens? We need in depth knowledge about what's really happening in our community. When commercial toxins are dumped into our regional rivers; when anti-spying votes win in a referendum, lucrative private picture-taking is stopped by the city council but all the cameras are still up many months later, etc we need at least one investigative reporter in these University (Texas A & M) Twin Cities. And we need news reports not headlines calling themselves reports, here one day and nothing the next. Sanderson Farms comes in, getting a lucrative deal from the city to locate here. Background on the company and its many fines and failures and non-neighborly polluting/dumping, etc. are not reported by establishment media. Information we all need (like Democracy Now with Amy Goodman) and Background on previous Sanderson Farms practices in other locations are found on a little independent citizen-supported radio station and a poor, small volunteer rag that includes support for gays-lesb!

ians-transgendered people called the Touchstone--these tell citizens (perhaps 2-3 % of them!)the needed information. So much we do not get.

How is Commercial Media Serving Your Community?

The FCC should be making Big Media get smaller, not letting them keep gobbling each other up and consolidating. This country talks the virtues of competition, but big corporations seem to have bought off decision-makers and people with power (usually Republicans, though not exclusively), keep concentrating power, spending less on needed news and real reporters (foreign and domestic (getting richer while robbing America of its Fourth Estate supposed to be a check on fraud and corruption (government and otherwise--like the too-big-to-fail banks and the secretive Federal Reserve System), and those robbing us of royalties and public resources, violations of citizens rights, the laws, and the who pollute and poisoning of our air, our lands, our rivers and waters, etc.

We need in depth knowledge about what's really happening in our community. When commercial toxins are dumped into our regional rivers; when anti-spying votes win in a referendum, lucrative private picture-taking is stopped by the city council but all the cameras are still up many months later, etc we need at least one investigative reporter in these University (Texas A & M) Twin Cities. And we need news reports not headlines calling themselves reports, here one day and nothing the next. Sanderson Farms comes in, getting a lucrative deal from the city to locate here. Background on the company and its many fines and failures and non-neighborly polluting/dumping, etc. are not reported by establishment media. Information we all need (like Democracy Now with Amy Goodman) and Background on previous Sanderson Farms practices in other locations are found on a little independent citizen-supported radio station and a poor, small volunteer rag that includes support for gays-lesbia!

ns-transgendered people called the Touchstone--these tell citizens (perhaps 2-3 % of them!)the needed information

What is the State of Noncommercial, Nonprofit, and Public Media?

There is one all-volunteer run citizen-supported radio station. Such stations have been threatened with extinction in the past.

My city does have online sites telling about what they do, etc. and a channel on the public TV station (KAMU-TV - run by the University and paid for by citizens and CPB. A foreign (from here) owned newspaper has some local news and some national news and lets citizens write a letter to the editor no more than once a month.

Before Reagan, it was understood that the public owns the air waves and that radio-TV stations have an obligation to serve the community in specific ways. Media companies would write up/tell the FCC and the public what they were going to do to serve the community. It was also in open books at the station for any one to see who walked in and wanted to. At the end of that time, a report-evaluation was made. The new year would start with a word like, "You did everything you said you would. Congratulations." Or ."You didn't fulfill the obligations you said you would; please do better this next year." I liked that. It made clear to everybody that the public airways belong to the public, and that the media have a responsibility to serve the public in specific ways--as well as make as much money as possible!

What is the Impact of the Internet and Mobile Information?

I'm for Net Neutrality as I understand it - not letting private companies block access, charge extra for what should be the latest and best for all. We are put in economic hostage too often as it is - the FCC should be allowed to do what is in the best interests of citizens, first of all, and work for equity and fairness of companies second. I don't know all the details - but I do know things got worse under Bush's eight years and the legacy remains; much of what was done needs to be undone. THE FACT THAT THE PUBLIC OWNS THE AIR WAVES, NOT PRIVATE COMPANIES NEEDS TO BE EMPHASIZED. IF BAD POLICIES FOR CITIZENS RESULTED FROM GOOD DEALS FOR CORPORATIONS, THE FCC NEED THE POWER AND GUTS TO CORRECT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS. THE 5-4 decisions from the recently right wing Supreme Court is not always the right word either, just the latest. Not only do corporations have unlimited speech right\$ now because they somehow got lawyers and judges to twist "legal person" into meaning they !

have all the rights, privileges, and immunities of citizens under the first Amendment to the Constitution; government can confiscate citizens' lands now for non-public purposes and give or sell it to other private persons or businesses at will. They blocked the counting of votes in Florida during the Bush v. Gore election--ask the "minority" losing judges. Scalia et al ignores the conditional clause in the 2nd Amendment and so many of the historic facts and opinions and over 100 years of precedent--and makes so-called "gun rights" virtually absolute, ignoring Chiefs or Police all over the

nation complaining about assault weapons letting criminals (now Mexican gangs fighting the Mexican army and coming to big cities of the USA, etc.) IF YOU CAN FIND LEGAL GROUNDS TO GET AROUND THE LATEST PRO-CORPORATE PROFITS AND ANTI-PEOPLE POLICIES, P-L-E-A-S-E DO SO!

MY CITY OF COLLEGE STATION does a pretty good job, I think, of informing its citizens of government activities, policies, agencies and their practices, via both the Internet and on one TV channel of those distributed by Suddenlink.

Most of the City Council meetings are "broadcast" and many phone numbers and websites of agencies and departments are given by "rolling" information segments on the city channel. Even attractive pictures of each policeman and each officer's name, "beat" and duties are given.